Food Plaza at Railway Stations

2885. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are thinking of entering into an agreement with world renowned restaurant to open multi-cusine fast food plazas at all the major railways stations;

(b) if so, the details of such proposal; and

(c) the number of stations covered in Andhra Pradesh under the proposed project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) plans to set up multi-cuisine food plazas at important Railway stations. Allotment of food plazas to empanelled agencies is done through competitive bidding process.

(c) Secunderabad, Hyderabad and Vijayawada Railway Stations in Andhra Pradesh are proposed locations for food plazas.

Nandyal-Yerraguntla new rail line

2886. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when the new rail line between Nandyal and Yerraguntla in Andhra Pradesh in South Central Railway was sanctioned and the cost of the project.

(b) the amount spent so far and the amount earmarked for completion of the project during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003;

(c) by when the project is likely to be completed; and

(d) whether Government would enhance the budget for early completion, to develop the backward areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The work of new line

from Nandyal to Yerraguntla was included in the Budget 1996-97. The anticipated cost of the project is Rs. 174 crores.

(b) The approx. amount spent so far on the project upto 31.3.2002 is Rs. 5.52 crore. The outlay provided for the project during 2001-2002 was Rs. 2 crore and proposed during 2002-2003 is Rs. 1 crore.

(c) and (d) No target date has yet been fixed. The work will be progressed and completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

Amendment in Railway Protection Force Act

2887. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been actively considering to amend the Railway Protection Force Act, to include protection and safety of passengers;

(b) if so, whether the RPF is presently providing protection to the Railway property only;

(c) if so, whether in view of steep increase in various incidents in running trains, the RPF would be strengthened to deal with the situation; and

(d) if so, by when RPF Act would be amended suitably, for the safety of passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The proposal is yet to be considered by the Cabinet and hence the details cannot be made available at this stage.